

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DPW-01

AID-05 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-05 A-01 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 /084 W

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O 171145Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9826

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1444

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4849

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: MARCH 16 AND 17, THE 75TH AND 76TH DAYS OF THE
OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 4710

1. SUMMARY. NEAK LUONG IS UNDER SEVERE KC ATTACK BY FIRE AND
GROUND ATTACKS. THE KC HAVE MADE MAJOR GAINS ON THE TOWN'S
PERIMETER. THE KC CONTINUED TO ROCKET THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION
OF PHNOM PENH. THE FANK FORCES WHICH RETOOK TUOL LEAP HAVE
HALTED TEMPORARILY BEFORE SWINGING NORTHEAST INTO A PRIMARY KC
ROCKET LAUNCHING AREA. NO 105'S HAVE HIT POCHENTONG SINCE FANK
TOOK TUOL LEAP MARCH 15. END SUMMARY.

2. NEAK LUONG HAS TAKEN OVER 700 INCOMING 105MM HOWITZER,
75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE AND 120/82MM MORTAR ROUNDS IN THE PAST
48 HOURS. THE KC DROVE TWO FANK BATTALIONS OFF THE FERRY SLIP
ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG OPPOSITE THE TOWN,
FORCING THE DEFENDERS TO SWIM TO KOH CHAMROEUN ISLAND.

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THE KC ALSO TOOK THE EASTERN PART OF THE AIRFIELD BUT

LOST 75 KILLED AND FOUR TAKEN PRISONER WHEN FANK RE-TOOK A POSITION THE KC HAD PENETRATED ON THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE PERIMETER. THE FLOATING NAVAL BASE SOUTH OF KOH CHAMROEUN ISLAND JUST NORTH OF THE CITY IS NOW UNDER DIRECT FIRE FROM THE WEST BANK. NAVY COMMANDER ADMIRAL VONG SARENDY HAS ORDERED THAT NO MORE CONVOYS TRY THE NEAK LUONG RUN FOR THE MOMENT. HE CITED THE HIGH RISK FROM KC FIRE AT MEKONG CHOKEPOINTS.

3. FANK HAS HALTED TEMPORARILY BEFORE INITIATING FOLLOW-UP ACTION AFTER ITS SUCCESS AT TUOL LEAP. THE FORCES WHICH RETOOK THAT TOWN NORTHWEST OF POCHENTONG AIRPORT ARE PREPARING TO PIVOT NORTHEAST INTO A PRIMARY KC ROCKET LAUNCHING AREA ALONG A MARSHY AND WOODED STREAM.

4. TWENTY-SIX ROCKETS HAVE LANDED IN THE CAPITAL SINCE LATE SATURDAY. THE ROUNDS HIT MOSTLY IN THE SOUTHEAST SECTION OF PHNOM PENH (NEAR THE EMBASSY) AND KILLED FOUR PEOPLE WHILE INJURING 27. NINETEEN ROCKETS EXPLODED ON THE AIRPORT AND VICINITY KILLING ONE PERSON AND INJURING ANOTHER. NO 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS HAVE BEEN FIRED INTO POCHENTONG IN THE PAST 48 HOURS.
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